

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 IO-14 EUR-12 /115 W

-----075050 160641Z /11

R 151421Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8821

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MASERU 1307

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR LT CU

SUBJECT: LESOTHO-CUBA RELATIONS

1. ON JUNE 14, 1978, FONMIN C.D. MOLAPO ADDRESSED THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY CHIEF C.M.T. MOLAPO. CHIEF MOLAPO ASKED THE FONMIN QUOTE IF IT IS TRUE THAT LESOTHO HAS ESTABLISHED DIPLMATIC RELATIONS WITH HAVANA; AND IF NOT, WHETHER THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL CONSIDER MAKING A STATEMENT TO CLEAR UP T E MATTER IN THE MINDS OF THE BASOTHO, PARTICULARLY SINCE CUBA, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION, HAS FOMENTED POLITICAL UNREST IN ETHIOPIA, ANGOLA AND OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA. UNQUOTE

2. FONMIN MOLAPO'S RESPONSE BEGAN WITH A "REGRET" THAT THE QUESTION WAS POSED "IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ACTIONS OF CUBA IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA", AND A REJECTION OF THE INSINUATIONS IMPLIED. HE THEN QUOTED THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER READING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

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QUOTE A SPOKESMAN OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TODAY DISMISSED SOUTH AFRICAN REPORTS ON THE CUBAN DELEGATION WHICH WAS RECENTLY IN LESOTHO.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPALINED THAT AS IT HAD BEEN INDICATED BEFORE, THE CUBANS WERE IN LESOTHO PURELY ON A FAMILIARIZATION VISIT, AND ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE NOT ON THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO.

THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT HAD THEREFORE BEEN  
ENTIRELY PEACEFUL, AND ANY OTHER SUGGESTION BY THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN MASS MEDIA WAS NOT ONLY IRRELEVANT BUT  
WAS ALSO CHEAP SPECULATION, THE SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED.  
UNQUOTE

3. HE ENDED BY SAYING THAT SPECULATION  
WAS "WASTEFUL AND MISGUIDED" AND THAT DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY WOULD BE GUIDED BY  
PRINCIPLES HE HAD EARLIER OUTLINED TO THE HOUSE.

4. POST HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE  
SPEECH IN WHICH FONMIN MOLAPO OUTLINED GOL'S  
PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHING DIPLMATIC RELATIONS.  
AS SOON AS IT CAN BE OBTAINED, IT WILL BE TRANSMITTED  
TO DEPARTMENT.  
NORLAND

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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